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engaged in seal hunting with St. Johns as their base. An account is given of the unrestrained slaughter of seals at that time. The vessel went northward toward the whaling grounds in company with the ships of the Greely relief expedition and hoped to win the prize offered for finding the Greely party. The remainder of the book tells attractively the story of whale fishing.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

## ANTHROPOLOGY

**The Golden Bough.** A Study in Magic and Religion. By J. G. Frazer. Third Edition. Part I: The Magic Art and the Evolution of Kings. Vol. 1, xxxii and 426 pp. Index. 20s. Vol. 2, xi and 417 pp. Part II: Taboo and the Perils of the Soul. xv and 466 pp. Index. Part III: The Dying God. xii and 305 pp. Index. 10s. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London, 1911. 9 x 6 each.

It sometimes comes to pass, not often, that a work transcends the limits of a mere book, to be reviewed and discussed in the small manner, but becomes an institution. This is eminently the case with "The Golden Bough," and in this light we are to give some consideration to the work, to present to view some of the effect which this work as institution has had upon a group of scientific workers, to note some investigation into the qualifications of the work for the high place which it has long occupied.

In all human probability these volumes now coming from the press are to stand as the final form of this great work. Dr. Frazer has observed a decennial period, the first edition was given to the world in 1890, the second in 1900, and this which bears the date of 1910 is the third. It would be too much to expect a fourth. We now have the half of the full work as it is to be, in fact a little more than the half. Revision and enlargement have been applied to the four volumes which constitute the third edition of the first three parts of the work, the magic art, the taboo, the dying god. Part IV, "Adonis, Attis and Osiris," is to be taken without modification from the general second edition; two concluding parts are now in preparation.

The method which Dr. Frazer has followed, the form in which his conclusions are presented, these are not of his discovery. We have no difficulty in seeing that he has followed on the track of Herbert Spencer, ploddingly rather than with the light step of the enthusiast. In fact "The Data of Religion" might have served him well as a title and have offered opportunity for a delicate recognition of discipleship. Likewise there comes into mind Pliny's great work, the "Historia Naturalis"; this also suggests a model, we shall have to look a trifle closely into the position of Frazer, whether he be nearer Spencer or Pliny.

In any work so encyclopedic we must find an interest in examining the method whereby the directing head of the enterprise, the author, deals with the notes of worldwide reading of himself or others. This implies hacking, a method to which no objection can be raised. A busy worker has just as much privilege to employ diligent readers in his interest as he has the right to permit himself the use of the footnotes in the work of any other author. The critical point arrives when the directing head of the enterprise takes up this raw material and fits it to the plan of his work, the point where the foreman of a research gang takes the higher rank of author. None will deny Herbert Spencer the highest place as author, none would suggest higher than foreman's rank for Pliny. Each of these tireless workers has done up to a certain point what the other has done, each has ransacked the literature of the world for data. Where lies the difference? Pliny has put down in order everything that he could discover, Spencer has weighed his data, has investigated its value, has exercised the prerogative of the editor and the scholar. Is "The Golden Bough" the work of a Spencer or of a Pliny?

In the preface to this third edition Dr. Frazer says that friends have pointed out that certain of his views were anticipated by Hegel; in certifying that this agreement is entirely unexpected he writes "I have never studied the philosopher's writings nor attended to his speculations." Perhaps the English authority does not use the German readily, for this is certainly a most remarkable

confession to be made by any student of the theory of religion, inconceivable when coming from a leader in such studies.

The conclusions at which Dr. Frazer arrives are based in his research activity, are supported in his publication, by certain data which he has been able to assemble. Each item must rest upon the accuracy of its original reporter, his ability to see the truth, his willingness to record it. These are conditions which the student must regard in every use he is to make of such material. Now it would be quite out of the question for Dr. Frazer to verify each item by his own endeavor, yet in most cases the error of one observer is in no long time corrected by the next in the field; and all the literature is accessible in the Cambridge libraries. Yet Dr. Frazer seems to have taken all the data at their face value, to have made no attempt to correlate them with the general advance in knowledge of the particular subject.

As all this has a most important bearing on the respectability of this great work, I must be very precise in particulars. On page 338 of *Taboo* he writes "among the Ojebways husbands and wives never mention each other's names" and supports this by a reference to Peter Jones. The spelling Ojebways is unusual. In the very long synonymy of the Chippewa this particular form is found but once, yet Dr. Frazer has not taken the pains to consult the publications of our Bureau of Ethnology. Its "Handbook of the American Indians" had for four years been within his reach. On page 21 of the same volume he cites from Mariner's charming story of Tonga the distinction between the How and the Tootonga, the civil and the religious king; he has not examined more closely in this matter or he would surely have found that since Mariner, who spelt *ad libitum*, Tongan has been reduced to writing and Hau and Tuitonga (the only forms of record in Baker's dictionary of that language) would never find themselves associable in an index with the forms which he employs. On page 32 of the same volume, and many places elsewhere, he writes of the Minangkabauers of Sumatra; why? Flat ignorance and neglect to examine; he is dependent on a paper written in Dutch, and because Minangkabau, preferably Menangkabau, calls for a termination in Dutch he carries that alien derivative form over into English and thereto adds an equally unnecessary plural termination. On page 117 of Part III he cites from Lisiansky, a century ago, the Hawaiian festival of Macahity; for half that time there has been a Hawaiian dictionary in which he could have seen that the word was Makahiki. On page 381 of the *Taboo* he shows how a Maori word for knife, *maripi*, goes out of use and is replaced by *neka*; yet the latter is not a Maori word and never could be, for no Polynesian speech allows combination of consonants.

I should be the last to criticize a great work because of faults in orthography. These are not cited because in each case there is a more modern and approved spelling. They are evidential that there has been no attempt to evaluate the data. Like Pliny, Dr. Frazer has found them, like Pliny he has used them. An encyclopedia has authority only in proportion as its articles have been edited. Here we have evidence that "The Golden Bough" has not been subjected to proper editing of its facts.

Ethnologic study is new to English research. In twenty years "The Golden Bough" has laid all investigation upon a Procrustean bed, all research is conducted along the plans which this work has predetermined. Is that a good thing for a science? It has not proved good in English ethnology. We have each year a larger and larger output, yet there is no freedom in research, there is none of that brilliancy of treatment of facts which marks the ethnologic work of the Germans, none of that almost inspired insight into the culture of savage folk which has appeared in American ethnology.

Already have I drawn attention to a fault in method which is fatal. With respect, I think there is a fatal weakness in the plan of the work. Like causes produce like effects, but we are not entitled to believe in the converse. Given similarity of effect we may not assume the same underlying cause. To establish the great central theme of "The Golden Bough" we should have to believe that there is a homogeneous race of men all under equal impulse toward a common end. In biologic science there is no disposition to restrict the evolution of man to a single focus. The more we know of a savage mind the less we see of unity of thought method.

The literature to which in a score of years "The Golden Bough" has given.

rise is a library in itself, wordy battles have been waged, the end is by no means in sight. My intention has not been in the least to add to the polemics, but to renew attention to the work which not only represents but is the best ethnology in England. Yet I should not be true to my own convictions nor should I be dealing honestly with readers, should I neglect this word of judgment. Few books contain so much to interest and to instruct. It is bright and entertaining; but it must be remembered that we cannot accept Dr. Frazer as an authority any higher than the source of his information and that this argument involves the strong probability of a fallacy. WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

## ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

**The World's Commercial Progress.** A Descriptive Account of the Economic Plants of the World and of their Commercial Uses. By W. G. Freeman and S. E. Chandler. viii and 391 pp. Maps, ills., index. Ginn & Co., Boston, 1911. \$3. 11 x 8½.

This is a notable volume for educational geography. The title would be more exact if it were given as the World's Commercial Plant Products, since materials of a mineral nature and animal products are not included. The authors have drawn upon large stores of information, and one of them writes on the basis of six years of work in economic botany in various tropical countries. The publishers have given the book an attractive and substantial form, in type, illustration, and binding.

Wheat has the leading position and one of the most extended treatments. There is an account of the entire series of processes from tillage to harvesting and manufacture. The other important cereals are then taken, followed by sugar, cacao, tea, coffee, and tobacco. Then come vegetables, fruits, rubber, timber and fibers. The later parts of the volume are devoted to gums, dyes, oils, and spices. The elimination of some minor products makes the work more valuable for common use.

An introduction sets forth the value of plant products, traces the origin of intercourse and exchange among regions, and suggests other principles of commercial geography. Possibly more important than the text are the illustrations, which include hundreds of half-tones showing almost every phase of production and manufacture in all parts of the world. There are also twelve full-page colored plates, showing among other things, wheat threshing, maize, cacao, the tea plant, cotton, tobacco and cinchona. There are full-page maps showing the areas of production. They are subject to the limitations of all such maps, that they are areal rather than quantitative, and thus often fail to reveal the importance of regions. The volume makes generally available a large amount of good material, and offers great help to all instructors in elementary and commercial geography. A. P. BRIGHAM.

## CARTOGRAPHY

**Portolan Charts; Their Origin and Characteristics:** With a Descriptive List of those Belonging to the Hispanic Society of America. By Edward Luther Stevenson, Ph.D. New York, 1911. (Publications of the Hispanic Society of America. No. 82.)

As interest in the study of discovery and historical geography has increased and a better knowledge of the sources acquired, more attention has been paid to the history and value of portolan charts. The literature of the subject has been, comparatively, so meager and so little has been definitely known that they have been regarded as manuscript curiosities ranking with the illuminated missal and the codex rather than as documents which are "the creations of seamen, navigators, explorers and chart-makers who were leaders in the expansion of geographical knowledge which opened the New World regions of Africa, of India and of America."

It is, therefore, gratifying that the first comprehensive work in English on